

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0186

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: NEW SPLINTER POLITICAL COALITION

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS OF JANUARY 10 REPORTS THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL GROUPING IN NAMIBIA, TO BE CALLED THE NAMIBIA PATRIOTIC COALITION. THE MAIN PARTIES INVOLVED ARE THE SMALL AND INCONSEQUENTIAL NAMIBIA YOUNG PIONEERS AND THE REHOBOTH LIBERATION PARTY. ALSO DEEPLY INVOLVED IS PROFESSOR MURUMBA KERINA, A FORMER SWAPO EXILE AND FOUNDING MEMBER, WHO RETURNED TO NAMIBIA IN LATE 1976 AS AN ARDENT TURNHALLE SUPPORTER. THE AUTHOR OF THE PRESS REPORT TELLS US THAT KERINA HAS NOW SOURED ON TURNHALLE AND THE NEW COALITION INTENDS TO OPPOSE THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE. HE ADDED THAT KERINA AND HIS ASSOCIATES APPEARED SOMEWHAT "MORE RADICAL" THAN THE DTA. A SWAPO OFFICIAL IN WINDHOEK TOLD US THAT THE NEW PARTY EXISTED "ONLY ON PAPER" AND HAD NO REAL SUPPORT, BUT COMMENTED THAT IT WAS INTERESTING THAT KERINA HAD SPLIT WITH TURNHALLE.

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2. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEWLY FORMED NAMIBIA PATRIOTIC COALITION HAS OR WILL DEVELOP ANY SIGNIFICANT FOLLOWING. ITS ORIENTATION IS UNCLEAR. BUT SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT KERINA, WHO HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE NATIONAL PARTY LEADERS IN THE PAST, COULD CONCEIVABLY LEAD THE NEW GROUPING

INTO AN ALLIANCE WITH THE RUMP NP. THE NP ITSELF HAS
TALKED OF FORMING A NEW COALITION WHICH WOULD NOT
BE A "MULTIRACIAL" ALLIANCE LIKE THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE
ALLIANCE BUT WOULD BE A GROUPING OF VARIOUS ETHNIC PARTIES.
IN ANY EVENT, KERINA WILL PROBABLY BILL HIMSELF AND HIS NEW
COALITION AS AN "INTERESTED PARTY" IN NAMIBIA AND MAY DEMAND TO
BE TREATED AS SUCH BY THE WESTERN FIVE IN THE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS.BOWDLER

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